MINUTES OF THE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE AREYONGA COUNCIL OFFICE ON TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026 AT 10:30 AM

UNCONFIRMED

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:59AM with a prayer from Councillor Abraham Poulson

2 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	**3.1**
TITLE:	**Attendance, Apologies and Leave**

Local Authority Members

Member Sarah Gallagher (Chairperson), Member Garnet Djana, Member Hilda Bert, Member Jonathan Doolan, and Member Jacob Yarma

Councillors

Councillor Abraham Poulson and President Roxanne Kenny

Council Employees

Libby Taylor – Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety, Victor Morgan – Area Manager and June Crabb – Governance Officer

Via Teams Ryan Rosenberg – Project Management Office

Guests

Katharine O'Donoghue – Member for Gwoja Office

Via Teams – Adele McCorkindale – Department Local Government, Housing and Community Development and Bernadette Shields – Census Representative

Apologies

Councillor Peter Wilson and Member Joy Kunia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to acknowledge the attendance and to table, for the Authority's record, any apologies received from Members for this meeting.

ARLA2026-01 **RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Jacob Yarma)**

That the Local Authority:

a) noted the Member's attendance at this meeting;
b) tabled apologies received from Member Joy Kunia and Councillor Peter Wilson for this meeting; and
c) noted that no members were absent for this meeting.

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	**4.1**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Membership**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purpose of this paper is to highlight the vacancies on the Local Authority (the Authority) and to apprise the Local Authority of any legislative changes to appointments introduced in the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act).

ARLA2026-02 **RESOLVED (Jonathan Doolan/Garnet Djana)**

That the Local Authority;

a) noted the members' attendance at the previous meeting;
b) did not receive any nominations at this meeting;
c) called for community nominations to remain open to fill the vacancy; and
d) noted that memberships may be revoked if members are absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings.

5 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

ITEM NUMBER:	**5.1**
TITLE:	**MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains all of the details about the MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct Policy.

ARLA2026-03 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

Minute Note: On the approval of the Chair, the Deputation presented by the Census Engagement Team was bought forward.

ITEM NUMBER:	**9.1**
TITLE:	**Census Engagement Team - ABS**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Census Engagement Team are attending the Local Authority Meeting to introduce their staff, provide information about the Census, outline employment opportunities, gain community support for the Census and seek input regarding the best approach to ensure participation is maximised.

ARLA2026-04 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **noted and accepted the information provided by the Census Engagement Team; and**
b) **provided advice on ways to improve participation within the community.**

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER:	**6.1**
TITLE:	**Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides the minutes of the previous Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held 15 October 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

ARLA2026-05 **RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Sarah Gallagher)**

That the Local Authority confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held 15 October 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

ITEM NUMBER:	**7.1**
TITLE:	**Acceptance of Agenda**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Agenda papers are submitted for acceptance by the Members for this Local Authority Meeting.

ARLA2026-06 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the agenda papers for this Local Authority meeting as presented, be received for consideration at this meeting.

8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER:	**8.1**
TITLE:	**Conflict of Interest**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report outlines the minimum standard of behaviour expected of the Local Authority in relation to declaring personal or family financial interest that may impact on the performance of their roles and ability to make objective decisions.

ARLA2026-07 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority Meeting:
- **a) noted the Conflict of Interest Policy; and**
- **b) that members did not declare any conflict of interest.**

9 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

Item 9.1 – Census Engagement Deputation was moved to between item 5.1 and item 6.1

ITEM NUMBER:	**9.2**
TITLE:	**CAAMA Radio**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The representatives from CAAMA Radio are seeking permission from the Local Authority to install metal signs within the community that will display the CAAMA Radio frequency and encourage community members and visitors to tune in to the radio.

CAAMA Radio is also seeking guidance about the most appropriate location for the sign, whether at the entrance to the community or another agreed place.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:
- **a) approves or does not approve the installation of a CAAMA Radio sign within the community; and**
- **b) provides advice on appropriate placement of the sign.**

Minute Note: The Representatives from CAAMA were not in attendance to this meeting.

UNCONFIRMED

ITEM NUMBER:	**9.3**
TITLE:	**Menzies School of Health Research**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Menzies School of Health Research wishes to deliver a presentation on a proposed employment-focused digital technology program and is seeking the views and support of Local Authority members and the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:
- **a) notes and accepts the report; and**
- **b) supports the project team to engage with Aged Care staff, Council staff and community members for consultation and delivery purposes.**

Minute Note: The Representatives from Menzies were an apology to this meeting.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.1**
TITLE:	**Introduction to the Regional Plan**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this paper is to provide the Local Authority with the opportunity to contribute to the development of MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) Regional Plan.

It is important that Local Authorities are consulted during the development of the Regional Plan to ensure that the priorities and needs of residents across the region are accurately represented.

ARLA2026-08 **RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority:
- **a) reviewed the information presented; and**
- **b) provided feedback to MacDonnell Regional Council to ensure local needs and community priorities are reflected in the development of the Regional Plan as follows:**
  - **Prioritise upgrading the road and causeway to ensure safe and reliable access in and out of the community when flooding occurs.**
  - **Training, Certificates, Licences, Literacy and Numeracy tests for youth.**
  - **Collaborate with key stakeholders in particular Tjuwanpa to ensure training is being offered to young people**
  - **Job opportunities that support residents who do not have a drivers licence**

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.2**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Project Register**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area LAPF has been provided for.
- Community based programs – including music, art or dance; uniforms for sporting events; or preservation of culture or traditions.

At risk funds' are funds that may include unallocated funds and/or funds that have been allocated but remains unspent.

ARLA2026-09 **RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Hilda Bert)**

That the Local Authority:

a) noted the Project Funding Acquittal and Certification (attached) as at 30 June 2025;
b) acknowledged that $45,723.83 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;
c) noted the available funds of $38,474.54 includes the 2025/2026 Project funding allocation of 30,700.00;
d) noted the progress on their current projects as presented by the Project Management Office as follows:
- **2112 - Water Bubbler at the Bus Stop, allocate an additional $7,500.00 to cover the increased installation cost;**
- **2119 - Solar light at the entrance, waiting to be installed by the Civil team**
- **2261 - Healthy Community event is still in the planning stage.**

e) closed Project 2115 – Maintenance and Registration of the trailer, returning $3,500.00 to unallocated as Council will cover these expenses;
f) created a new project – allocating $15,000.00 to a Ride on mower for the Civil team to use around community; and
g) did not discuss the wish-list items at this meeting.

CONFIRMED

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.3**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Discretionary Funds**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Each financial year, MacDonnell Regional Council grants a discretionary fund allocation of $4,000.00 to the Local Authority. These funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

ARLA2026-10 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Garnet Djana)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **noted the spending of their Discretionary funds;**
b) **resolved to return $1,438.25 committed to the Healthy Community event, as members chose not to proceed with this allocation;**
c) **allocated the balance, currently at $1,691.07 to a Community Easter BBQ, with the CSC to collect the items and the Local Authority members to organise the BBQ; and**
d) **agreed that any funds remaining after the purchasing for the BBQ will go to buying power cards for each occupied house.**

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.1**
TITLE:	**Council Services LA Report**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Areyonga across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

ARLA2026-11 **RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Council Services report

Minute Note: The Area Manager to assess and rectify the issue with the security camera at the works depot

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.2**
TITLE:	**Aged and Children's Service Report**
AUTHOR:	**Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Aged Care and Children's Services

ARLA2026-12 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Abraham Poulson)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **accepted the Aged and Children's Services report;**
b) **advised that following incidents involving unauthorised persons taking meals and food from the Aged Care facility, members requested the installation of appropriate signage, to include:**
   - **No animals permitted in the building**
   - **Authorised personnel only**
   - **No food to be removed from the premises**

Minute Note: The Authority noted concerns regarding unexplained absences impacting service delivery and the Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety will refer this matter to the Executive Manager Aged and Children's Services.

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.3**
TITLE:	**Youth and Community Safety Report**
AUTHOR:	**Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety and Youth Services.

ARLA2026-13 **RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Services report.

12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.1**
TITLE:	**General Council Business**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to give Members the opportunity to discuss General Council Business items.

ARLA2026-14 **RESOLVED (Jonathan Doolan/Jacob Yarma)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **noted the matters raised had been discussed;**
b) **requested that Council invite Tjuwanpa to the June meeting to discuss the new program and how this will benefit Areyonga residents;**
c) **was advised that Member Sarah Gallagher has stepped down as Chairperson to foster leadership development among members; and**
d) **noted that at the June Local Authority meeting, nominations will be called for Chairperson for a 12-month term.**

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	**13.1**
TITLE:	**Non-Council Business**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise in relation to services provided by the Northern Territory Government and its external Stakeholders.
This may include:

- Roads outside of MRC's area
- Education
- Health
- Police
- Land Management

ARLA2026-15 **RESOLVED (Jonathan Doolan/Garnet Djana)**

That the Local Authority:

a) noted that Chansey Paech will attend the Local Authority meeting in June and closed this matter;
b) noted the update on the invitation for a CLC representative to attend a Local Authority meeting and kept this matter open; and
c) noted and discussed new matters raised as follows:

- **Representative/s from Housing, Maintenance and Repairs to attend the next Local Authority meeting to speak to members about how long it takes to get their repairs attended to**
- **How are repairs prioritised**
- **Audit on all the houses in community as they are very old and rundown**
- **What is happening to Lot 52**
- **RTB Program – is that program still running**
- **New Builds in community - how many and when**
- **Will the new builds receive splits**
- **Does NTG replace swampy's with splits**
- **Housing Pop-up shop and to place posters around community at least 6 – 8 weeks in advance, should this event go ahead.**
- **Notifying residents of visits from the Housing team should also be – 6 to 8 weeks in advance.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 4 JUNE, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1:52 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday 31 March 2026 and are UNCONFIRMED.